

"TINIAN"
HOME OF COL. JAMES BURD
HIGHSPIRE, PA.

H.A.B.S. No. PA-34

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PA.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. PA-3

Reduced Copies of Measurement Drawings

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Julian Millard, District Officer

2250 No. Third St. Harrisburg, Pa.

TINIAN

Home of Col. James Burd
Two Miles West of Middletown, Pa.

OWNER: Nissley Bros., Middletown, Pa.

DATE OF ERECTION: 1767.

ARCHITECT: Unknown, if any.

BUILDER: The Bill of Materials carries name John Annis, Lancaster, Pa., who was probably the Builder.

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent.

NUMBER OF STORIES: Two stories and attic.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: Foundation stone; walls local stone ~~in~~ in two colors, with random rubble and lime mortar. The stone is covered with stucco, which was applied in 1860. All inside walls are plastered, the partitions being plastered on a base of one inch boards. The stone walls are furred. Ceilings also are plastered.

The present frame addition is of later construction and it is said that there was no wing on the house in Burd's time. A chimney was on the rear wall, with fireplaces in two stories which was removed when the frame addition was built. The roof and eave cornice and front porch are comparatively recent. The list of materials mentions a pediment for the front door. There is a tradition that the front room with the "dressers" was used as Col. Burd's Office and that the large closet in second story was built for his books.

Following is a copy of the bill for the materials furnished for this house, including various materials for repairing and improving other buildings on the place, particularly a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ story log house in which the Burds are supposed to have lived from 1755 to 1767. This bill of materials was found in a collection of Burd papers in the State Library.

Colonel James Burd Esq. in Account with Jno. Annis Dr.

	L	S	d
To fraiming three floors of Joists 2160 feet	4	17	-
To laying sd floors quarter'd 2025 Ditto	12	3	-
To roofing and shingling 1200 feet	10	16	-
To a rough floor on the Collar Beams 324 feet	-	12	-
To a Pediment over the front Door	1	10	-
To cornishes and Bedmolds to the Eve's 68 feet	3	8	-
To making a double outside Cellar Door	1	-	-
To ditto to a double Porch with a floor laid	1	10	-
To thirteen Window Cases at 7/each	4	11	-
To nine Pair of Window Shutters lined at 16/pr	7	4	-
To two Door Cases front & back at 10/	1	-	-

	L	S	d
To 197 Lights of sashes at 6d pr	4	18	6
To two front Doors lin'd at 16/p	1	12	-
To rough Partitions 1715 feet at 2/6 p Ct	2	2	6
To inside Doors 64 Pannels at 2/ p	6	8	-
To inside Door-Cases at 2/6	1	12	-
To Architraves 306 feet at 6d p	7	13	-
To half Ditto & Casings for the Windows 105 feet	1	15	-
To Jamb Caseings and Ovaloes 12/91 feet	1	10	4
To Jamb Caseings without Ovaloes 100 feet	-	16	8
To Caseing 2 Windows in the Garret --- 3/	-	3	-
To inside Window Caseings & hanging 11 of them	1	18	6
To Sur-base and Washboards 427 feet	10	13	6
To 100 feet of Newiell plaind both sides 14/	-	16	-
To 588 feet of Shelves in the Store-room 9/	-	9	-
To 43 Steps of Stairs at 2/p	4	6	-
To Wash Board & Sur-base to Ditto 48 feet 6 inch	1	12	4
To 74 feet of Barge Boards 6/2	-	6	2
To a Trap door for the House 4/6 to 3 Cellar Window Shutters 9/	-	13	6
To two rough Doors in the Cellar 3/	-	5	-
To a frame & Windless to the Well 25/	1	5	0
To caseing a Pillar under the Girder 5/	-	5	-
To two Arch Head Buffets at L4 10s	9	-	-
To makeing a high post Bedstead 10	-	10	-
The Log House Floor 2526 feet at /10	12	12	6
To 408 feet of partition plaind both sides	3	4	-
To cutting out and Caseing six Windows L3	3	-	-
To outting out and Caseing 4 Doors	2	8	-
To making 8 ledg'd Doors at 4/ p	1	12	-
To Ditto for 6 Shutters at 3/ 18/	-	18	-
To 112 feet of rough Partition 5/	-	5	-
To 35 Steps of Stairs at 2/	3	10	-
To 63 feet of Shelves5/..To a Mantle Shelf 2/	-	7	-
To 222 feet of Washboards 18/6	-	18	6
To oaseing 2 Windows at the Gable End 4/	-	4	-
To 144 Lights of sashes at 6d p	3	12	-
To 4 inside Door Cases at 2//6/8 (sic) to 2 Benches at the Office 9s	-	17	-
To makeing ten Benches at 2/ p	1	-	-
To two large Tables in the Kitchen 15/	-	15	-
To one large Dough trough 10/	-	10	-
To three Bedsteads plain'd and two rough 15/	-	15	-
To two small Dough-troughs 4/	-	4	-
To makeing a large double writting Desk 30/	1	10	-
To Ditto to a Door to the Hen House 3/	-	3	-
To sundrys done to sd House 10/	-	10	-
To making a Marten Box 4/ To Ditto to a Tea Table 20/	1	4	-
To making a Partition and a Door to the old House 10/	-	10	-
To sundrys of painting and Mending &c 20/	1	0	0

Total Sum L 150 11 6

Errors Excepted at Lancaster
this 4th August 1769
John Annis

1767

May By oak Bords Received 250 feet (sic) 0 17 6
and soantling 2 Peases 16 feet long 32 0 3 0
1 0 6

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS:

"Col. James Burd in The Braddock Campaign,"
by Lilly Lee Nixon, in Western Pennsylvania
Historical Magazine, December, 1934; Chron-
icles of Middletown; Egle's History of Dau-
phin County.

ADDITIONAL DATA: Colonel James Burd was a Pennsylvanian who played a great rôle in the History of his Country and yet is unknown to the majority of Americans.

James Burd was born at Ormiston, near Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1726. His family were people of property and of some prominence--his mother was a cousin and a step-daughter of the Lord Provost of Edinburgh. One of the oldest in a family of eleven children, James received a good education. He knew his Latin and could make telling references to ancient History. His interest in Literature continued into later life; for in 1763 he was a charter member of the exclusive Juliana Library Association of Lanoaster. There is no proof that he had any military training, but, from conditions in Scotland and from his later attainments, it seems highly probable that he had. Two brothers, one an officer under Albemarle, gave their lives in the king's service. There is a tradition that the family was friendly to the Stuarts. Burd was twenty years of age when Culloden was fought, but it seems unlikely that he helped the Pretender in that battle, for just six months later he was living in London and using his own name.

The young Scot was in Philadelphia by the spring of 1748. He rented a storeroom from Samuel Carpenter for forty-five pounds per annum and became a merchant. He soon married Sarah, the only daughter of Edward Shippen, and thus allied himself with three of the most influential Pennsylvania families--The Shippens, the Willings, and the Allens. These families were friends of the proprietors, and Burd was soon given important assignments in Provincial affairs. In 1752 Burd and his wife moved to Shippensburg, a frontier village, where Burd managed a plantation for Edward Shippen, aided that gentleman in the fur trade, and soon had his finger on the pulse of international affairs in the Indians' country.

This pulse now had a quickened beat. The peace of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748 had settled few questions between France and England, particularly those relating to America. Portents of coming conflict could be seen daily along the Canadian border or on the western frontier. The great Mississippi Valley was in dispute.

When James Burd visited George Croghan at Aughwiok in September, 1754, that trader asked him to acquaint the governor with the fact that a red man had brought the rumor that the French and Indians intended striking at the "back inhabitants." England not waiting for a formal declaration of war, soon sent General Braddock to take Fort Duquesne. Braddock reach Virginia in February, 1755.

Meanwhile, William Allen, the wealthiest and probably the most influential merchant and lawyer of Philadelphia, was trying to purchase supplies for Braddock from southeastern Pennsylvania, the "bread basket" of the colonies, and James Burd was one of his agents.

In 1755 the Governor charged George Croghan, William Buchanan, John Armstrong, and James Burd with the task of building a road from Shippensburg to a point near Fort Duquesne, in order to facilitate the transportation of supplies to Braddock's Army. Burd had entire charge of the construction and built 65 miles of road in a rough, mountainous region between May 6th and July 17th, hampered by every sort of obstacle, from lack of tools, food and firearms to hostility of the Indians. The work ceased when Braddock was driven back and the western regions were abandoned to the Indians.

The James Burd who went back to Shippensburg on July 24, 1755, had become well and favorably known throughout the whole colony. A man not yet thirty years of age, he had conducted his enterprises in such a manner as to receive the approval of all contemporary officials and to carve for himself a niche in the affairs of Pennsylvania. For the next twenty years little of importance transpired in which he was not consulted or in which he did not actually participate. His defense of the frontier in the Cumberland Valley, his management of the Iroquois fur trade for the English at Fort Augusta, his victory over the French and Indians at Ligonier during the Forbes campaign, his later road building in 1759, his gathering of patriot forces early in the Revolution--all these contributions were vastly important.

It is noted above that James Burd and his wife removed from Philadelphia in 1752 to Shippensburg, where he managed a plantation for Edward Shippen. In 1755, when his intimate friend George Fisher laid out the town of Middletown, he moved with his family and slaves to his farm "TINIAN", about two miles west from the center of the prospective Town.

In 1767, he erected his home on the bluff overlooking the Susquehanna just back of the town of Highspire. It is a stone structure $2\frac{1}{2}$ stories high and is one of the historic mansions of our State. The most notable men of the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars were entertained at Tinian, for the owner was a man of mark in Provincial days. It is said that court was held by Burd in this house, that there were oells in the cellar and a whipping post in front of the house, across the road.

Mr. Burd held the Military rank of Colonel from the Provincial Government. As there were but two regiments in service his rank was a prominent one. During the Revolution, a dispute over his rank led to his resignation and while there is no doubt of his patriotism and his earnest support of the American cause, he held no prominent place in the War.

He fulfilled with honor and punctuality many important public duties for over thirty years and was highly respected as a citizen, soldier, engineer, civil officer, and County Judge until his death in 1783. He had eleven children of whom eight lived to maturity.

He and his wife were buried in the Old Presbyterian Graveyard at Middletown until 1860, when the remains were removed by descendants to the new Middletown Cemetery.

The succeeding owners of Tinian are as follows:-

The James Burd Estate sold the property to Joseph Burd in 1795, who sold Col. Burd's house and his home farm consisting of 168 acres to Michael Ulrich in 1836 for consideration of \$6225.00. It was in possession of the Ulrich family until 1924, when it passed to Daniel B. Kieffer, whose Estate sold it in 1934 to Allen H. and Edward H. Nissley of Middletown, for \$7500.00. Nissley Bros. own a number of dairy farms and operate a large dairy business. The house is occupied by an employe of the Nissley's, named Leedy.

Julian Milled
District Officer